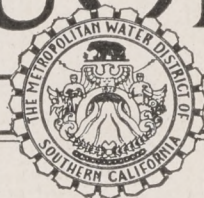


• COLORADO RIVER • AQUEDUCT NEWS

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT

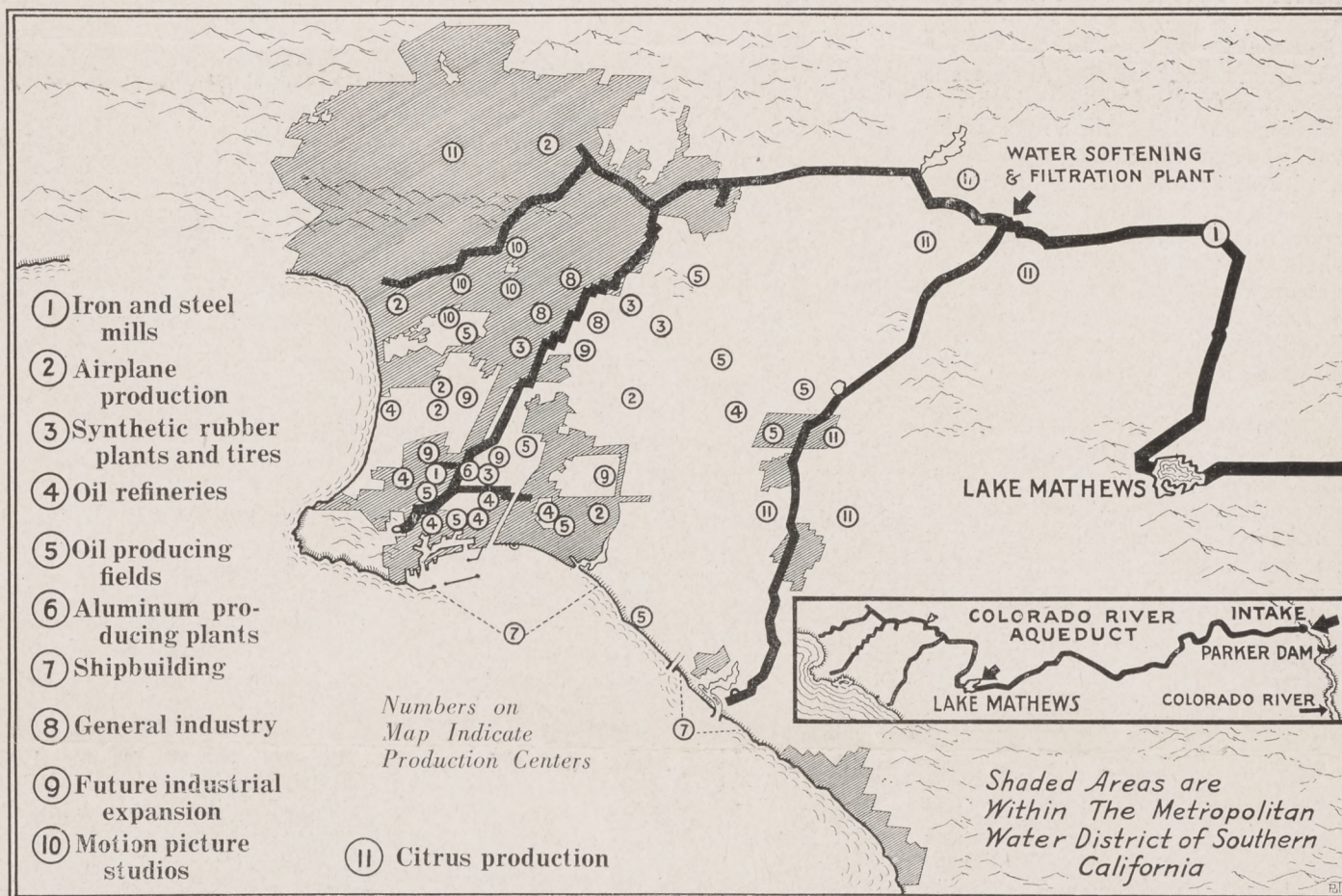


OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Vol. X

December 31, 1943

No. 12



How the Colorado River Aqueduct Set the Pattern for War Production and Future Development on the Coastal Plain of Southern California.

Let us see how the great water distribution system of the Colorado River Aqueduct defines and encompasses the vast territory within which are the growing cities, the basic industries and the citrus zones of the Coastal Plain of Southern California. And note how these life-giving water mains embrace and intersect the territories which remain open and ready for residential and industrial expansion

in the days to come. Altogether, it is a metropolitan area covering 2,000 square miles, extending from the mountains to the sea.

The shaded portions of the map are the 14 cities and areas which comprise The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. The numbered discs indicate the general location of the basic industries and citrus belts on the Coastal Plain. It is noteworthy

that these great centers of production are mostly within the Metropolitan Water District cities or are situated near an aqueduct distribution line.

Like the fingers of a huge protecting hand, the underground mains of the aqueduct's distribution system reach out across the entire Coastal Plain, serving the cities and areas now within The Metropolitan Water Dis-

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• COLORADO RIVER •
AQUEDUCT NEWS
THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

306 West Third St.
 Los Angeles, California

*Published monthly in the interest of
 Field and Office Workers on the Colorado
 River Aqueduct, and for the information
 of all other citizens of the Metropolitan
 Water District.*

VOL. X DEC. 31, 1943 No. 12

Santa Ana Residents Favor Aqueduct Water

Use of softened and filtered Colorado River Aqueduct water in their homes and commercial establishments is favored by an overwhelming majority of the citizens and taxpayers of Santa Ana.

This was the finding made by the Santa Ana Chamber of Commerce in tabulating returns from a questionnaire sent out during the past several weeks to home owners and business firms throughout the city, it has been announced by Secretary Hal Peir.

For a short time after the aqueduct was first placed in operation in 1941, the residents of Santa Ana were supplied with Colorado River Aqueduct water delivered through their local water distribution system. During the past two years, however, only the water pumped from local wells has been made available to the consumers. But the people of Santa Ana apparently have not forgotten the soap economy and other advantages resulting from their brief use of the soft and filtered water from the aqueduct.

Recently the Chamber of Commerce mailed to the owners of homes and business firms a questionnaire in which they were requested to state whether they would or would not prefer to be served aqueduct water even though its cost might be somewhat higher than the charge for local water. According to Secretary Pier, the returns on the balloting indicated a better than two to one majority in favor of using Colorado River Aqueduct water.

Secretary Pier further announced that the postwar planning committee of the Santa Ana Chamber of Commerce unanimously has adopted a resolution recommending that the City Council approve the use of aqueduct water throughout the city.

• LOS ANGELES •

The second of a series of brief descriptive stories of the cities and areas which comprise The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

Under the leadership of William Mulholland, the people of Los Angeles as early as 1923 had come to realize that even with their Los Angeles River, their local wells and their aqueduct from the Owens River (the latter completed in 1913) they still faced the necessity of obtaining an additional and a dependable water supply. In 1921 a severe drought had visited all of Southern California and had extended up into the Sierra Nevada Mountains, source of the Owens River Aqueduct. The normal winter snow crops in the mountains did not materialize; the runoff available to the city's aqueduct was less than the quantities expected. During the next decade there were several more years with less than average rainfall. It became necessary for Los Angeles to go into the Owens Valley and buy all of the agricultural land and even the town properties, and from the water rights thus acquired drain down into the Owens River Aqueduct the water urgently needed to supply the city of the middle 20's. It became sharply apparent that if the city was to be guaranteed a dependable water supply and if continuing growth was to be supported, supplemental water from another and a dependable source must be obtained.

William Mulholland, then the Chief Engineer of the Los Angeles Water Bureau and the builder of the Owens River Aqueduct, pointed the way to the Colorado River. He drew attention to the fact that this river, then wasting its flood waters into the sea, was the one remaining source for additional water. In October 1923, he led the first party of Los Angeles Water Bureau engineers out on the trackless desert standing between Los Angeles and the Colorado River and launched the engineering studies that were to open the way for the building of the largest and longest domestic water supply line in the United States.

When the Metropolitan Water District was organized in 1928, it took over the herculean task of planning and building the Colorado River Aqueduct not only for the City of Los Angeles but for all of the cities and areas in the District and those which may later be permitted to annex to the District.

The fact is that the progress and development of Los Angeles throughout the 162 years of its history has been de-

pendent to a large degree upon the vital substance of water. It was first staked out as a settlement site in 1769, when a party of explorers and missionaries under Gaspar de Portola camped one day on the banks of a stream now known as the Los Angeles River. Near by was an Indian village named Yang-na. Captain Portola gave the stream the name of Porciuncula, in honor of a chapel in Italy beloved by St. Francis.

Twelve years later, on September 4, 1781, as the American Revolution was drawing to a close, the City of Los Angeles formally and officially was founded by Don Felipe de Neve, Governor of Alta California, for His Majesty King Carlos III of Spain. Several years prior to the founding of Los Angeles, the Franciscan padres had built the San Gabriel Mission, nine miles to the northeast. And on this bright warm day of September 4, Governor de Neve marched out from San Gabriel Mission accompanied by a squad of soldiers and eleven families. They trudged across barren hills until they reached a spot where now is located the Plaza of the City of Los Angeles. Here the Governor with solemn rites and ceremonies founded the El Pueblo de Nuestra Señora la Reina de Los Angeles de Porciuncula (The Town of our Lady the Queen of the Angels of Porciuncula).

The eleven families, who had been recruited from Mexico, were established as the city's first settlers. Each family was given a plot to cultivate and a lot facing the Plaza. King Carlos issued a royal proclamation granting to the pueblo the right to all of the water of El Rio Porciuncula (Los Angeles River), a right which has been reaffirmed by the courts of the State of California. For seven years the reins of city government were in the hands of Corporal Vincent Felix, a Spaniard in command of a military detachment of five privates. By 1800 the settlement numbered 70 families, composed mostly of discharged soldiers and colonists that had drifted in from Mexico. They were engaged chiefly in raising grain and cattle.

In 1846, at the outbreak of the Mexican war, the sleepy pueblo still contained less than 3,000 inhabitants. Then came the gold rush to California, with increasing numbers of adventurers, trad-

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● MONTHLY REPORT ●

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is a brief summary of some of the activities of the District as set forth in the monthly report of General Manager Julian Hinds, filed with the Board of Directors in December 1943, covering work done in November.

Construction

Coastal Municipal Water District Line—The American Pipe and Construction Company finished the laying of all steel and concrete pipe, including the by-pass around the reservoir. The total length of pipe laid in the Coastal extension of the Orange County line is approximately 67,000 feet. All concrete lining has been placed in the reservoir and asphaltting of the construction joints is 85 per cent completed.

Operation and Maintenance

General—Boulder generating units N-5 and N-6 were operated continuously except for short periods to permit inspection and maintenance. Total energy delivered to Basic Magnesium, Inc. in November was 138,388,500 kwhr.

Parker Dam—Water level in Lake Havasu dropped from elevation 448.1 feet on October 31 to 446.9 on November 30. The discharge of the Colorado River at Parker Dam averaged 19,423 c. f. s. compared with 19,056 in October.

Pumping Plants—The pumping plants were operated for short periods to replenish storage in reservoirs and along the aqueduct for camp and army use. Normal maintenance work was performed at all plants and on the transmission and telephone lines.

Distribution System—The water surface at Lake Mathews on November 30 was 1,339.88 feet and water in storage

amounted to 72,120 acre feet. At the Softening and Filtration Plant water was softened from an average hardness of 381 to 101 p. p. m. Softened filtered water was delivered to Beverly Hills, Compton, Fullerton, Long Beach, Los Angeles and Santa Monica; and to the U. S. Army Hospital at Spadra.

Office Engineering and Design—Plans and reinforcement steel lists were prepared for a supplementary delivery structure on the Orange County pipe line for the City of Santa Ana. Additional detailing was done in connection with the Coastal Municipal Water District line. Details were prepared for protection of the Long Beach lateral at crossings of railway tracks being constructed by the U. S. Engineer Department.

Hydrographic—Available storage in Lake Mead on November 30 was 22,503,000 acre feet, a reduction during the month of 747,000 acre feet which lowered the water level 5.39 feet to elevation 1184.50 feet. Discharge from Lake Mead averaged 19,706 c. f. s. compared with 19,109 in October. Analyses of aqueduct water were furnished to numerous inquirers, including U. S. Navy Department officers.

Purchasing—Cash salvage sales for the month amounted to \$7,175.71. The appraised value of salvage stock on hand at the end of the month was \$265,351.98.

Arrival of Water To Be Celebrated

Testing of the steel and concrete sections of the aqueduct distribution line extension to the Coastal Municipal Water District was under way in December. At the same time steps were being taken to effect a connection with the local water system that serves Laguna Beach and the South Laguna areas.

General Manager and Chief Engineer Julian Hinds has announced that the District will be ready to deliver aqueduct water to the Coastal Municipal Water District early in January. Residents of Laguna Beach, it has been announced, plan to participate in a public ceremony celebrating the arrival in their community of soft and filtered aqueduct water.

Los Angeles

(Continued from Page 2)

ers and homeseekers finding their way to Southern California and the city of Los Angeles. Los Angeles experienced its first real estate boom in the 1880's. Homeseekers and speculators poured into the town by the thousands, and within two years its population jumped from 12,000 to 50,000.

Since 1890 the growth of Los Angeles has been phenomenal. Today it is the fourth largest city and the hub of the third largest metropolitan area in the United States.

Pattern For Tomorrow

(Continued from Page 1)

trict of Southern California, and ready to serve the remainder of the coastal territory when and as it is annexed to the District.

This basic and fundamental plan for war and postwar development was set under way twenty years ago. The main framework of the vital system has been completed. To extend water service to additional centers within these 2,000 square miles now requires only the construction of relatively short feeder lines from the existing system of conduits.

Cities and areas now within the Metropolitan Water District are Anaheim, Beverly Hills, Burbank, Compton, Fullerton, Glendale, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Pasadena, San Marino, Santa Ana, Santa Monica, Torrance and the Coastal Municipal Water District.



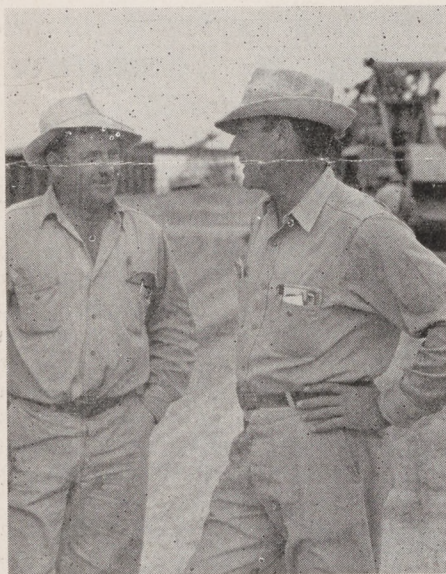
Chairman W. P. Whitsett of the Board of Directors (pointing) and General Manager and Chief Engineer Julian Hinds looking out over the broad expanse of Lake Mathews in the course of a recent aqueduct inspection tour.

NEWS FROM FIELD AND OFFICE



Sergeant Margaret Swank, WAC, now on military duty near Santa Fe, New Mexico. Before she was granted military leave by the District on November 21, 1942, Miss Swank was Secretary to the Executive Secretary of the Board of Directors.

Word comes that Lieut. William A. Farner, formerly the District's attorney for compensation claims, recently has been made Civilian Personnel Relations Officer at Moffett Field, California.



Out on the Orange County feeder extension job, W. F. (Mac) McCleary, District Concrete Inspector on the work (at left), talks things over with Superintendent Charles F. Bonadiman of Bonadiman-McCain, Inc., sub-contractors constructing the regulating reservoir.

A detailed explanation of an employee pension plan now being studied by the Board of Directors was sent out this month to each employee of the Metropolitan Water District by President Owen Wilson, Board of Control, M. W. D. Employees Association.

Should the plan under consideration finally be approved by the District Board, it will be necessary to submit the proposition to a vote of the employees. It is therefore requested by President Wilson that the bulletin issued on December 9th be examined and considered carefully by all aqueducters.

The following is an excerpt from the bulletin's introductory statement:

"In recent years District employees have become increasingly convinced of the desirability of an employee retirement system.

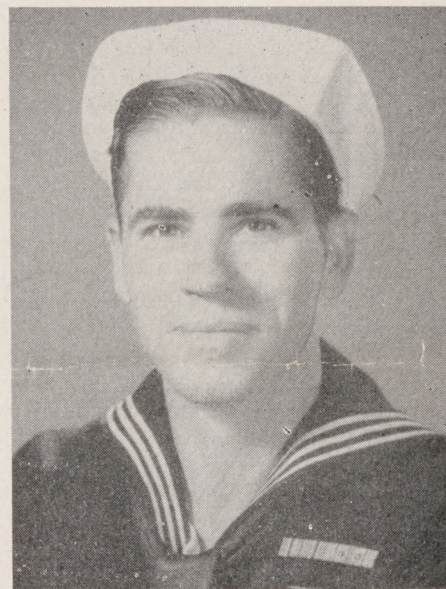
"The employees of the District cannot be included in the Federal Social Security program because of constitutional obstacles, which are not likely to be overcome.

"It is practically impossible for an actuarially sound retirement program with guaranteed benefits on a predetermined basis to be established in an employee group as small as the District's, because there is excessive risk of variance from normal mortality experience tables which must be used for establishing contributions and benefits.

"In consideration of the plight of many public employee groups similar to the District's, the Legislature has amended the State Employees' Retirement Act so that these employee groups could participate in the State Employees' Retirement System.

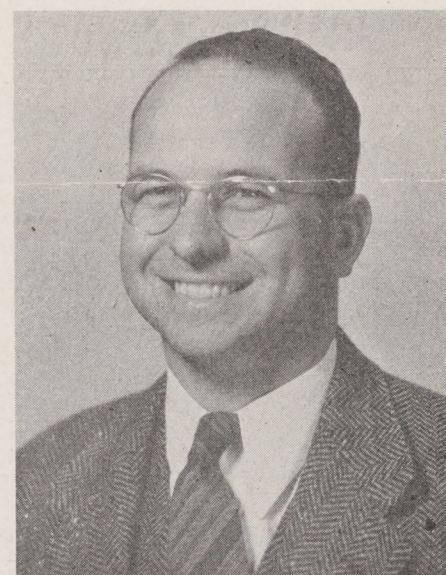
"The Board of Directors is considering participation by the District in the State Employees' Retirement System. If the Board approves of such participation, it will then be necessary to submit the proposition to a vote of the employees. The purpose of this report is to acquaint you with the benefits and costs of participation in the State System."

In analyzing and explaining by examples the various phases of the State Employees' Retirement System, the report covers the following subjects: (1) retirement benefits provided, (2) cost of system to the District and to employees, (3) management of the system, and (4) procedure for entering and terminating participation in the system.



Machinist Mate 1st Class Samuel G. Hall

Machinist Mate, First Class, Samuel G. Hall, was a mechanic on the aqueduct for eight years. Recently, while convalescing from wounds received in the South Pacific, he visited his family in Beaumont. While attached to a PT squadron he saw action in the Bismarck Sea, at Guadalcanal and at Tulagi.



William Paul Winn, Assistant Engineer, Transmission Line and Pumping Plant Operation. For the past ten years Paul has been engaged in electrical engineering work in the Los Angeles headquarters. On January 1 he assumes new duties with the District at Intake and Gene pumping plants.